



Waterbird Conservation Council Terms of Reference

January 2004

Introduction

The Waterbird Conservation Council (Council) is the keeper of the North American Waterbird Conservation Plan (NAWCP) and has responsibility for coordinating, supporting, and communicating implementation of NAWCP, other waterbird plans, updating the plans, and facilitating actions for waterbird conservation throughout the Plan area. These terms of Reference for the Council were adopted by the Council at its inaugural meeting on June 4 and 5, 2003.

Vision

The vision of Waterbird Conservation for the Americas is that the distribution, diversity, and abundance of populations and habitats of breeding, migratory, and nonbreeding waterbirds are sustained or restored throughout the lands and waters of North America, Central America, and the Caribbean.

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee will be composed of nine persons. Five will be “geographic” Vice-Chairs representing Canada, U.S., Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean. The Chair and Chair-Elect for the Council will be selected from these five Vice-Chairs. The four additional members of the Executive Committee will be the Past Chair of the Council as well as three Council members selected by the five Vice-Chairs for their knowledge and experience with current priority action areas. The Executive Committee members will serve two-year terms.

The Executive Committee will maintain a list of action items developed by each Council committee.

Committees

Council members may participate on standing committees or on ad-hoc committees created by the Council to address specific issues. Committees may decide to include “outside” (non-Council) persons in their membership. The standing committees are:

- Technical Services Committee
- Regional Planning and Implementation Committee
- Communications Committee
- Resources Committee
- International Committee
- Conservation Action Committee
- Nominations Committee

Committees will report to the Council as a whole (generating reports and recommendations for Council action).



Terms of Reference, cont.

New Members

The Council is envisioned as autonomous and will approve its own members. Adequate representation of the Plan's breadth of geography, taxonomy, and issues requires continual recruitment and thus a nominating process. The Nominations Committee will present names to the full Council for consideration.

Decision-making

The Council will strive to obtain consensus on all issues and to work cooperatively to advance waterbird conservation. When consensus is not possible, additional information will be gathered before a decision or action is taken.

The Council will not take advocacy positions, but the Conservation Action Committee may present draft language on issues that may be used by interested parties.

Meetings

The full Council will meet six months after its inaugural meeting and annually thereafter (preferably in April or November). Annual meetings are felt to be sufficient given that most actual work of the Council will occur in committees.

Executive Committee will teleconference approximately every two months to monitor and assist the activities of the other committees. Other standing committees will communicate at least twice a year by meeting or by teleconferencing.

Reporting

The Council will produce an annual report of its activities.